

## A. BASIC DIALOGUE: 'How are you?'

A

ṣé	ṣe	(marks yes-no question)
dārādārā/dáādáā	daradara/dǎdǎ'	good
nī	ni	is
ṣé dáādáā nī	Ṣe dǎdǎ ni?	How are you?

B

ā dupé	A dupé.	[Fine] thank you.
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A

īlé	ile	house
ńkọ	nkọ	how about?
īlé ńkọ	Ile nkọ?	How's everyone at home?

B

īlé wá dáādáā	Ile wa dǎdǎ.	They're fine.
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A

sí		to (direction)
ōjǎ		market
ànǎ		yesterday
lọ		go

ṣ'ṵ lṵ sṵjâ lăă      Ṣé o lṵ sṵjâ ni àna?      Did you go to the  
market yesterday?

## B

bḗnī      yes ('it is thus  
bḗnī mṵ lṵ      Bḗnī| mo lṵ.      Yes, I went.

## B. NOTES

1. 1 sg. and 2 sg. subject pronouns, mṵ and ṵ.

Compare the forms:      ṵ lṵ      'you went'  
   mṵ lṵ      'I went'

In these forms, lṵ is the stem of the verb that means 'go'. The element ṵ stands for a second person singular subject (i.e. 'you'), while mṵ stands for a first person singular subject (i.e. 'I').

2. The word ṣé, introducing yes-no questions.  
'Assimilation of the vowel of ṣé.

The element ṣé indicates that what follows is a yes-no question. Notice that when it occurs before a vowel, its vowel may change, becoming identical in quality with the immediately succeeding vowel. It retains its own length and tone, however. This is an example of an extremely common Yoruba phenomenon, called 'assimilation'.

3. The remaining parts of the basic dialogue are to be regarded, for the time being, as useful standard phrases which will not be used as models for new sentences.

C. Exercises

Practice the following pairs of expressions so that when you hear the first you can respond immediately with the second.

1. First person singular vs. second person singular.

- a.        ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄                    m̄ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄  
              m̄ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄                    ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄
- b.        ʃ̄'ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄                    bɛ̄ɛ̄n̄ī m̄ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄

2. Assimilated vs. non-assimilated pronunciations.

- ʃ̄'ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄                    ʃ̄é ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄  
              ʃ̄é ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄                    ʃ̄'ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄

D. Supplementary material

1. Places, and some activities associated with them.

- |         |                         |      |                  |
|---------|-------------------------|------|------------------|
| ɔ̄jâ    | 'market'                | wɛ̄  | 'to bathe, swim' |
| ɔ̄dò    | 'river'                 | s̄in | 'to worship'     |
| ʃ̄óóʃ̄ì | 'church'                | jó   | 'to dance'       |
| àìsùn   | 'wake, all night party' | ʃ̄ē  | 'to do, make'    |
| sí      | 'to'                    |      |                  |

2. 'Elision' with sí 'to.'

ɔ̄jâ	ʃ̄'ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄	sójâ	bɛ̄ɛ̄n̄ī m̄ɔ̄ l̄ɔ̄	sójâ
ɔ̄dò		sódô		sódô
ʃ̄óóʃ̄ì		sí ʃ̄óóʃ̄ì		sí ʃ̄óóʃ̄ì
àìsùn		sáìsùn		sáìsùn



kílō̄̄ lō̄̄ sē̄	kinī̄ ō lō̄̄ sē̄
mō̄ lō̄̄ jó	mō̄ lō̄̄ jó

Notice the length of the vowel o in the casual kílō̄̄lō̄̄sē̄, corresponding to a short (i.e. one-mora) vowel in the corresponding deliberate form.

Notice also the length, in both casual and deliberate styles, of the vowel ō̄, when the verb lō̄̄ occurs immediately before another verb stem.

### UNIT 2

A. BASIC DIALOGUE: 'Are you in good health?'

A

àlàáfià		health
şalàáfiànī	Şé alafia nī?	Are you all right? ( 'Is it health? ')

B

àlàáfià nī	Alafia nī.	I'm fine. ( 'It is health' )
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A

ilé nkọ̄	Ile nkọ̄?	How is everyone at home?
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B

dáādáā nī	Dǎǎ nī.	Fine.
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